



Vol. 50, No. 44

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, January 20, 1998

# NOT The Super Bowl Special Edition

# Humbug

I like football. I grew up cheering for UCLA. I used to love watching them come out of their huddle in that unique serpentine created by their Coach Red Sanders

Couldn't help but love a team that made going to the line of scrimmage a thing of beauty.

Some three decades later, though, the beauty in football seems to be more the sound of cash registers grinding open to suck in more bucks than the old Statue of Liberty play executed perfectly. And in no place will that be more apparent than at a stadium that was morphed from the Murph to the Q by a league that licenses cheeseheads and has city officials lapping at their heels begging to fetch for the master.

The week ahead portends total and unabashed commercialism climaxing with a game that many won't even remember, as the pro bowl comes along and tries to grab one fast buck out of the willing fist of the public. Football has been taken over by hucksters in fancy shoes, costly sports outfits, with the uncanny ability to fleece about a hundred million willing sheep every year. Maybe that's as good as a well executed Statue of Liberty.

Super Bowl (and I worry that the use of the words Super and Bowl, side by side, may bring league attorneys to my doorstep) mania is playing out all over the place. Many who know nothing at all about the game of football have become rabid Bronco fans or crazed Pack supporter this week.

I saw a trio of homeless men outside a local supermarket discussing the upcoming game. They were pretty unanimous that Green Bay would win the game. They figured that weather conditions, injuries and Brett Favre's facial hair would rule the day. One said he was even willing to bet all he had on the Packers. Super Bowl mania is pretty serious when a homeless person is wiling to bet all he has on the outcome of a game. The NFL has really done its job.

I suspect someone at work will run a pool. That gives each of us a chance to root for our favorite team and to do so most vociferously at the end of each quarter. Aside from the workplace interest generated by wagering on the outcome of the game, the league was pretty clever about stirring up excitement by making it a contest between the two conferences (NFC and AFC) of the NFL. Whether most viewers could tell who was in which conference matters little when someone around the giant TV set shouts "NFC rules!"

At one point early in the playoffs, I thought that El Niño might play a role in the game. Sheets of rain falling on the stadium, blimps grounded, announcing crews drenched and coughing. Unfortunately, league officials got wind of El Niño and they got a cease and desist order against the Latin threat.

The order will be lifted immediately after the game, though, so El Niño can

wreak what havoc it In discussing the will. But on Super recent game, one said, "I Sunday, the NFL presaw this vails and El Niño will be just . another spectator of the festivities. Like many other folks this pile, so I Sunday, I'll probably sit down to see some of the game. I heard that three states have a know!" and held up his bandaged hand. watch-the-game or go-to-prison law.

We're lucky here in California, though, no such law came into being on Jan. 1. But the NFL does have a long arm

and don't be too surprised if getting in the spirit of the Big Game doesn't become mandatory in California by the next election. Our local officials might even demand that should the 2002 Super Bowl (Super Bowl XXXVII) come back to San Diego, Paul Tagliabue be given not just the key to the city, but the grant deeds to all city property as well. Seems fair, considering what Super Bowl is supposed to do for San Diego. Right?

On Super Sunday, I might run out to the store at some point and do my weekly shopping. Please don't tell the NFL One thing I'm pretty sure about, though, is that the Frogs' commercial will be at least as interesting as the game.

### I'll Take Soccer Mary Rosen

For years, while in high school and college. I liked to watch football. As a member of a football marching band at UCLA, I never missed a home game and attended many on the road. I even got in to watch and enjoy practices.

But several incidents made me realize that the game (which was once almost banned because of the many deaths during the age of the flying wedge) more and more began resembled a Roman Gladiatorial and boxing match than a sport.

My first cause for pause occurred after a UCLA-USC game, when I was talking with several of the top players. One was a first team All-American (and later All-Pro) and another a third

sticking out of a stepped on it. His teammate said, "Yes, I

Another incident that reenforced my feeling was the paralysis of high school player Kip Hayes. Hayes became a quadriplegic when he spear-tackled an opponent (ramming his head into the opponents middle), which had been against the rules for years.

He had been doing it for a long time; his coaches had never made him stop, even though they knew it was banned (and dangerous).

The third which completed the turn off occurred during a Pop Warner game.

In the game, one team of eight-year olds was, quite literally, pushing the other all over the field, both offensively and defensively.

I wondered out loud why this was happening. One of the parents said that the league had "loaded one team" and placed all the beginners on another.

I was outraged at this blatant disregard for the safety of the rookie team players, who had no peers to help them during a game and could have been easily hurt playing against the more experienced players across the line of scrimmage.

As sports editor of the local weekly, I wrote a stinging editorial about it. That seemed to trigger a reaction, and the practice, which had been happening in many leagues throughout the county ceased (at least for a while).

Later, one of the coaches remarked, for me to hear, "People who don't know about football, shouldn't write about it."

I said to myself that people who don't understand how fragile youngsters are before their bodies strengthen shouldn't be coaching them.

I still remember another "macho" Pop Warner coach, shaking a 7-year-old and saying, when that player was hurt, "Football players don't cry!"

To me, allowing youngsters under the age of 12 or 13 play tackle football is both foolhardy and almost criminal.

The game is injury-prone enough without starting so young, and possibly risking a life-long injury. If it must be football, let them play flag football until they are high school age, at the earliest.

### Alien Invasion Paul Treske

It's coming. The alien invasion that is. It's coming and there is nothing we can do to stop it. No, it's not from outer space or south of the border ... it's from up Wisconsin way and it's infestation will leave an indelible mark on those of us here in the San Diego area.

These aliens will be easily identified by their colors ... mostly green and yellow; by their headgear which is frequently yellow in color, rife with holes and generally shaped like a triangular wedge of cheese.

They may also be recognized by their unique (at least to us) eating habits which consist of large amounts of fried sausage washed down by buckets of beer.

Actually, local merchants and restaurant owners are expected to welcome them despite their odd appearance.

This is due to their spending habits which are lavish and seemingly without end. Such habits are always welcomed by local entrepreneurs

Other visitors will be flooding our environs as well, wearing a noxious shade of orange, but the Wisconsin aliens will create the greatest stir during the next week with strange and hearty cries and songs that appear to include the words "go Packers" or "eat cheese" or something like that.

They will, thank heavens, be unfailingly good-natured and will probably only rile us slightly when they refer to our frigid 40-degree nights as "summerlike."

Fortunately for us (except for the merchants), their stay will be relatively brief. It will climax on Jan. 25 when they, and those others with the ugly orange outfits, meet in the Murph or the "Q" or whatever that overpriced struc-

They will shout, scream and drink for several hours and then return to their native land to tell friends and relatives of that strange place southwest of Lake Michigan where they brag about mediocre cheese and have no idea what a good sausage tastes like.

Once they're gone, we'll go back to our quiche, salads and avocados and once again look for aliens at the border or on X-Files.

Hotel and motel rooms will remain relatively full with ordinary winter visitors and the creatures at the zoo and Sea World won't know the difference.

Then, I imagine that the San Diego City Fathers (and Mothers) will again involve themselves in the task of readying the "Q" or the Murph or whatever, for the next Super Bowl.

For most of us, that process will be too ugly to watch for a second time.

# **Lemon Grove Fire Log**

Jan. 1, 1997

2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Overdose 7100 blk. Broadway Ave. Person down.

7800 blk. Longdale St. Difficulty breathing.

3800 blk. King St. Residential structure fire.

6500 blk. MacArthur Dr. Child locked in auto.

3700 blk. Grove St. Residential structure fire.

7800 blk. Palm St. Broken leg

8300 blk. Broadway Ave. Difficulty breathing

Jan. 2, 1998

7100 blk. West View Pl. Seizure 7000 blk. Berry Park Ln. Difficulty breathing.

3300 blk. Buena Vista Ave. Unconscious

7400 blk. Broadway Ave. Vehicle accident.

8000 blk. Broadway Ave. Medical aid.

2400 blk. Skyline Dr. Assault victim. 7300 blk. Canton Dr. Vomiting blood.

Jan. 3, 1998

7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Difficulty breathing.

2500 blk. Crestline Dr. Difficulty breathing.

1400 blk. La Corta Cir. Possible heart. 3000 blk. Chapo Ct. Attempted suicide

3200 blk. Olive St. Unresponsive.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Fall. 8300 blk. Adams St. Medical aid.

4100 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Motorcycle accident

Broadway Ave./Main St. Auto vs. pedestrian.

8400 blk. Broadway Ave. Overdose.

7000 blk. Central Ave. Vehicle versus structure.

2100 blk. El Prado Ave. Tree fire.

Jan. 4, 1998

3700 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.

2000 blk. Main St. Seizure. 3200 blk. Olive St. Unresponsive.

7500 blk. Church St. Difficulty breathing.

Jan. 5, 1998

1900 blk. Ensenada St. Seizure.

8100 blk. Broadway Ave. Difficulty breathing.

7500 blk. North Ave. Ring removal.

3900 blk. Quarry Rd. Dizzy.

7900 blk. Palm St. Vehicle vs. structure.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Seizure.

7100 blk. Broadway Ave. Single-engine response.

7700 blk. High St. Vehicle vs. structure.

Jan. 6, 1997

3700 blk. Harris St. Diabetic problem

1300 blk. Skyline Dr. Fall. Waite Dr./Violet St. Person down

3800 blk. Carbo Ct. Seizure.

7000 blk. Waite Dr. Back injury

2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Diabetic problem.

3700 blk. Jill Ln. Headache.

1600 blk. Presioca St. Residential structure fire

### Public Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 97-10846 Loan No. 8121135 Title O7rder No. 0305753-380 investor/insurer No. 043334293703 APN No. 577-182-11-00 YOL ART: IN DEFAULT UNIDER A DEED OF TRUST. DAYED 1206075 UNINESS YOU TAKE ADDITION OF TRUST. DAYED 1206075 UNINESS YOU TAKE ADDITION OF TRUST. DAYED 1206075 UNINESS YOU TAKE ADDITION OF TRUST. DAYED 1206075 UNIVERSITY OF T by said Deed of Tinist CTC Foreclo-sure Services Corporation, 4(0). Countywele Way, SV-88. Simi Valley, CA 93065, Phone (805) 578.6618. By Deborah Hartz, Tinstee's Sale Officer, CTC Foreclosure Services is a diebt collector altempting to collect a diebt Any information obtained will be used for that purpose Daled 0100268 ASAP2978S7 1/06, 1/13, 1/20

# 98, 01/27/98, 02/03/98

### The Lemon Grove Review

Is published semiweekly by Forum Publications, Inc., 3434 Grove Street. Lemon Grove, CA 91945. Periodicals postage paid at Lemon Grove, CA 91945 POSTMASTER: PLEASE SEND

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946 • (619) 469-0101

Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation in Superior Court of State of California in and for San Diego County, December 5, 1949

Adjudication Number 155392. \$18 yearly in San Diego County \$40 yearly elsewhere in U.S.A.

### Steven Saint, Publisher

Assistants to the publisher: Betty Thomas, Trudy Thomas Sports editor: Mary Rosen Contributing writers: Lora Clark, Cheryl Cohen, Greg Eichelberger, Phillip Giannangeli, Paul Treske, Betty Jo Tucker

### Submissions

Letters, editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com.

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

### Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertise ment shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127. Lemon Grove, CA 91946

### Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: Incorporated: Area: Median income:

1977 3.75 sq. mi. \$34,399 1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million

25,100

1996 taxable sales: \$265 million Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom Council:

Thomas Clabby Craig Lake **Dwight Shelley** Jeff Jandura

City Manager: Planning Director: Linda Niles City Attorney: City Clerk:

Sheriff's Capt.:

Fire Chief:

Gloria McLean **Christine Taub Yolanda Collins** vacant

Doug Yount

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Libraries: Post offices: Parks Recreation centers

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# **Community Notes**

### Hospital awards \$25,000 grant to cancer program

The Grossmont Healthcare District has awarded a \$25,000 grant to The Wellness Community, San Diego (TWCSD) to expand support services for East County residents and their families, according to Margaret Stauffer, Executive Director and CEO of TWCSD. At present, these services will be provided at Grossmont Hospital's Center for Cancer Treatment, however, the support programs are open to any cancer patient regardless of where they receive treatment.

TWCSD is the largest psychological and social support organization in San Diego devoted to serving cancer patients and their families free of charge. For more information or to schedule an interview with Stauffer, call 234-0345.

### AARP holding 55 Alive Driving programs

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) sponsors a monthly 55 Alive Mature Driving program in all areas of San Diego County. These two-day classroom sessions are four hours each and open to anyone 50 years or older. A mandatory three year discount on auto insurance is available to all those 55 years and older who complete the course. Cost is \$8 per person.

For more information and reservations, call the Area Agency on Aging weekdays at 619-560-2500.

# **Obituaries**

### Kenneth Alexander Barwick, Esq.

Kenneth Barwick passed away on Jan. 2 while visiting his family in New Mexico. Born June 28, 1926, he was a prominent local attorney until he retired in 1995. He was the senior partner and a founder of the law firm of Barwick, Rutherford and Scott, with offices in Lemon

He was well known for his kindly manner in dealing with clients, and spent a considerable part of his practice giving professional services without charge. In 1980, he earned the San Diego Trail Lawyers Special Advocacy Award.

During his career, he successfully represented a former Mr. America in United States of America vs. Venus, a case that went to the United States Supreme Court.

Barwick was a quadriplegic and confined to a wheelchair since 1947. This was the result of being stricken with polio while serving in the Army-Air force in the Philippines after the end of World War II. He was honorably discharged as a disabled veteran. His decorations and citations included Asian Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the American Theater Medal.

After his discharge, he married his favorite dance partner, Deanie Phelps, in 1948. Mrs. Barwick was a nurse who worked at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Richmond, Va. She remained at his side as a wife and nurse until his death.

After leaving the VA Hospital in 1947, he resumed his undergraduate studies and went to the UCLA School of Law.

Despite his disabilities, he kept up with his class, earned his law degree and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1954. He opened a law office that same year in Lemon Grove and maintained his practice there until retirement.

While he was a law student at UCLA, he became interested in the Bible and Bible prophecy. He spent a good part of his life studying the Bible, Bible archaeology and prophecy. He was particularly interested in prophecies concerning the restoration of the earth to paradise under God's Messianic Kingdom. He especially enjoyed the 35th Chapter of Isaiah, which promises restoration for the disabled. Barwick served as the presiding minister of the La Mesa Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. He could be seen on weekends calling on La Mesa residents sharing what he had learned in his studies.

He is survived by his wife, Deanie, his brother, Thomas, sons Rodger and Michael and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on Jan. 17 at the Escondido Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Escondido.

### James M. Fetters

James M. "Ted" Fetters, 90, owner and operator of Pal's Cafe in Lemon Grove from 1945 - 1975, died Jan. 4 at Hermitage Care Center

He was born Sept. 25, 1907 in Worth County, Mo., and lived in San Diego County for 55 years. He was a member of the Al Bahr Shrine, a charter life member of the Lemon Grove Masonic Lodge #736, Lemon Grove Men's Club and Lemon Grove Old Time Days Association. For many years, he owned several race horses.

Fetters was preceded in death by his wife, Estelle, and is survived by sons, Jay of El Cajon and James; daughters Iona Burness of Santa Maria, Calif. and Norma Jean Darrow of Bard, Calif.; brothers Ralph Fetters of Campo and Robert Fetters of Missouri; sisters Mary Gastone of Oakland, Calif., and Vera Warden of Galleton, Mo. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Jan. 9 at the Lemon Grove Masonic Temple followed by private interment at El Camino Memorial Park.

Contributions may be sent to the Shriner's Burn and Crippled Children's Hospital c/o the Al Bahr Shrine.

# Sports Beat with Greg Eichelberger

Hello again, sports freaks. It's that wonderful time again between the AFC and NFC championship games and the Super Bowl. I know, in times past, I have complained about the two week period as nothing but boring, unmitigated hype. However, now that I'm in the middle of all of this nonsense, I can see why they need this extra time - there's just way too much going on to fit everything into just one seven-day period. Waterfront events, street parties, league charity balls and other events, Sea World excursions, team interviews, pre-game and halftime show practice, clinics for kids, the "NFL Experience" and Youth Education Town, the Global Junior Championship, awards presentations and more are crammed into this fortnight so tight you'd need a crowbar to separate them.

And then there's the endless "working" press conferences where free lunches are the order of the day. Hey, like any other member of the fourth estate, I'm no dummy. The words "free" and "food" go together like "mom" and "apple pie."

It is a lot of fun, though, and I urge, while there's a few days left of it, for everyone to enjoy the parties, many of which are free to the public.

By the by, the National Football League wants me to pass on a few reminders of the big day when Green Bay defeats the Broncos 38-17. If you do not have a game ticket (now selling somewhere between \$500-\$3,000), you will not be allowed into Jack Murphy/QualComm Stadium this Sunday, no matter what.

And while they do urge you to take the trolley, parking rates are as follows: cars - \$10, RVs - \$20, limousines - \$75 and buses - \$100. There is a special three-day plan for only \$150, though. I'd also like to congratulate Jerry Mosier of Lakeside and his son, Jeff, 10, probably the only East County folks able to attend the game. Jeff will tells us more about that next week.

One more local note, D.Z. Akins, the legendary deli in La Mesa, will be serving up "super" food on "Super" Sunday. "A Super Bowl party wouldn't be complete without plenty of fans and good food," said co-owner Debi Akin. "It's an American tradition."

So, in celebration of the event, lavish meat and cheese trays, colossal sandwiches and mouth-watering desserts will be offered. Stop by the diner, located at 6930 Alvarado Road, or call 265-0218. It's better than being at the game, that's for sure.

Now, with the space I have left, I'll clue you in on a few things closer to home. There are still a few days left to sign up for winter/spring basketball at the East County Boys & Girls Clubs. Teams from grades one to grade eight are now being filled. To sign up in Lakeside, just stop by the club at 12824 Lakeshore Drive (behind Lindo Park Elementary School) Friday from 6-8 p.m.

The season, which goes from Jan. 29 - April 3, will no doubt be full of fun, excitement and good sportsmanship - Don Ransom will tolerate nothing less. For details, call him at 443-9293

After posting two road wins two weeks ago, the San Diego Gulls (26-5-1) were stunned at home last Thursday by the lowly Tucson Gila Monsters (stupid name, average team), 8-5, in an infractionmarred contest played before 4,500 screaming fanatics. Even head coach Steve Martinson (and his assistant, Darren Perkins) was ejected and injured player Kevin St. Jacques had to coach most of the third period (since he was the only one left with a tie). Of course, 17 Gulls' penalties (mostly dumb ones) didn't help the cause.

The team bounced back this past weekend win wins over Tacoma, however, so all is not lost. And remember, on Jan. 31, beginning at 5 p.m., when the birds take on Reno, you can get a game ticket, hat, tshirt, Rally's hamburger coupon and a big plate of hot, delicious Mexican food for just \$10, part of which goes to help the Lemon Grove/Spring Valley Bobby Sox League. Contact Cari Slater (of El Cajon) for more information at 224-4625, extension 374.

For professional outdoor soccer fans, this may be good news. The San Diego Flash (A-League), sort of a Triple-A farm club of the Los Angeles Galaxy, will begin competitive play in April of this year. The home games will be played at Southwest College in Chula Vista, but there are a few local folks involved in the enterprise. Draft, tryout and scheduling information is tentative at this point, but when I get the news, I'll pass it on to you.

Finally, the El Cajon Track Club East is looking for a coach to head its youth program (kids 1 - 14). A stipend (some money) is included, along with a few other amenities. For details, call "Coach" Lassen at 1-800-450-7382.

That's more than enough this week, friends. You can makes things easier by providing some tasty tidbits to put in this column, if you just call 390-7103 (or E-mail ikeforum@juno.com). In the meantime, have a great Super Bowl week.

# East County High Schools

Sports Schedules (as available)

Tuesday, Jan. 20- Tuesday, Jan. 27

Thursday (1/22) - Wrestling: Mount Miguel at Monte Vista, Granite Hills at Valhalla, West Hills at El Cajon Valley, Santana at Grossmont, Helix at El

Friday (1/23) - Girls Basketball (Boys at opposite sites): Grossmont at Santana, El Capitan at West Hills, El Cajon Valley at Mount Miguel, Helix at Monte Vista, Granite Hills at Valhafia. Boys Soccer (Girls at opposite site): Granite Hills at Helix, Monte Vista at Valhalla, Santana at El Capitan, Gross-

mont at El Cajon Valley. Tuesday (1/27) - Girls Basketball (Boys at opposite sites): El Cajon at Grossmont, El Capitan at Santana. West Hills at Valhalla. Mount Miguel at Helix. Granite Hills at Monte Vista.

# Scott Festival promises excitement

by Marv Rosen

A week following the behemoths of the top NFL teams going at it like gladiators across a line of scrimmage, some of the top runners in the world will be in Santee to compete in the annual Scott Festival of races on Feb. 1

The two class runners that dominated the first four Scott Invitational miles promise to be at again on the streets of Santee.

In that race, which is named for one of the premier American racers, Steve Scott, who resides in Carlsbad, Utah's Jason Pyrah and Brazil's Edgar Olivera will be trying to become the first three-time champion over this surprisingly fast road-race mile race layout with its 90 degree turn (record is 3:57 by Olivera) that kicks off the start of the regular track season (excluding marathons) for the nation.

Despite the apparent domination by the pair, other international racers will attempt to break this stranglehold. Last year, this included Zimbabwe's Passmore Furusa and Ire-

land's Mark Carroll (third and fourth place), who carry their own outstanding mile and 1,500 meter records into the competition.

Although this is the highlight race, the women's competition is just as competitive, with the likes of Mary Slaney and Suzy Hamilton competing, especially with prize money of more than \$13,000 to be split between the top finishers in both races.

The entry fees, after deducting the prizes and costs, are partially donated to the local high school programs

High schools that generate more than 100 entries to the races are part of the High School Challenge that gives their teams prize money. The school with the most participants receives \$750.

For the "amateur" runners of all ages, there will be merchandise for the top three in each race, plus a collectors race t-shirt for all competitors. "Gold" medals for all those in the Kids Mile are provided when they cross the finish line, along with plaques for the top three teams in the various divisions.

The race weekend kicks off with an autograph session at Valle de Oro Bank (on Cuyamaca) from 2 - 3 p.m. on Saturday with Scott and the other top runners present.

At 8 a.m., Sunday, kicking off the races, is a 5K run, followed by a 5K walk, then the series of mile races for all ages.

On race day, entertainment will be provided by KSON, with refreshments available for participants and spectators.

What makes the festival unique in its makeup is the East County community involvement in races which go from tiny tykes right through the Masters and seniors in the plus 75 age group.

Because the races are run on the streets of Santee, it enables spectators to enjoy watching the runners up close for most of each race, making it fun for both the participants and watchers as Santee celebrates with its annual festival

# Starting over is tough for Lady Griffins

by Joe Naiman

When the Grossmont College basketball season started, the Grossmont-Cuyamaça Community College District was a trustee short of its normal five people. At least the Grossmont College women's basketball team has been able to put five women on the court.

The Lady Griffins, who last year won the Pacific Coast Conference championship, have had to rebuild the entire starting lineup, and a 1-15 start does not portend a realistic shot at a repetition of that fine season.

Last year, coach Roger Moses was the Pacific Coast Conference coach of the year. He is back - which puts someone on the bench with some previous PCC experience.

The Griffins had five all-conference players in 1997. Holly Goodrich was the player of the year, all-conference honors went to April Caires, Autumn Friesner and Kyrstie Rhea. and Kelle Lyons earned all-conference honorable mention.

The Griffins knew they were going to lose Goodrich, a second-year player in 1996-97 who is now on scholarship at Pacific Christian College.

However, Moses didn't also expect to lose his four firstyear starters. The Griffins' roster now has nine players. Two of those are sophomores, but both Heather Schwartz and Shani Hunter are transfers.

Moses has a trio of assistant coaches to share the training, one of whom is Judy Nowlin-Tres, who played for the San Diego State women's team over the past few years and is adjusting to involvement of a team with a losing record.

Hunter, the granddaughter of a 1948 Olympic gold medalist, is a 5'8" guard. After two years of varsity ball at Morse High School, she graduated from the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. A goal for Hunter is a master's degree in engineering, a career path which took her to Cal Poly Pomona last year before the detour to Grossmont College.

Schwartz is a 5'7" guard who played field hockey as well as basketball at Torrey Pines High School and spent a year at Sonoma State University. She's pursuing a degree in kinesiology and plans to be a physical education instructor.

The Griffins have no true center, and, at 5'11," Scripps Ranch graduate Ann Strasbaugh is the only player on the team taller than 5'9.

The two 5'9" players are guard Paulette Neves, who earned two basketball letters and four softball letters at Granite Hills High School, and forward Bella Mavashev, an immigrant from Uzbekistan who earned one basketball letter and two tennis letters at Patrick Henry High School.

Fortunately, the tensions between Catholic parents and the public high school teachers' union don't spill over to community college basketball players, as a pair of University High School graduates and a pair of El Capitan High School graduates round out the team.

Jennifer Stirk earned four basketball letters at Uni while Elizabeth Tontz earned two basketball letters and three tennis letters for the Dons; both are guards for the Lady Griffins.

Forward Lacey Leone and guard Angela Brust each earned three basketball letters and two track letters at El Capitan.

The Lady Griffins faced an extremely strong pre-league schedule last season, saddling them with a mediocre overall record prior to conference play.

The Griffins have available more excuses than even the worst team in the NBA, the Denver Nuggets. Unfortunately good reasons don't count as wins in the standings.



(as available) Tuesday, Jan. 20 - Tuesday, Jan. 27

Wednesday (1/21) - MEN'S BAS-KETBALL: Grossmont College vat Mira Costa. WOMEN'S BASKET-

BALL: Grossmont College vs. Palomar. Thursday (1/22) - WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Grossmont College at Southwestern.

Friday (1/23) - WOMEN'S BAS-KETBALL: Grossmont College at San Diego Mesa

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